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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 001288

SIPDIS

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TAGS PREL, PGOV, PTER, IZ, KU, SY, JO

SUBJECT: MUASHER ON PRODUCTIVE KUWAIT MEETING, PERSISTENT PROBLEMS WITH SYRIA

REF: KUWAIT 539

Classified By: Amb. Edward W. Gnehm for reasons 1.5 (b) (d)

SUMMARY

11. (S) FonMin Muasher told the Ambassador February 18 that the Iraq neighbors Foreign Ministers meeting in Kuwait had been frank and productive

PRODUCTIVE FONMIN MEETING IN KUWAIT

12. (S) Foreign Minister Marwan Muasher described the Iraq neighboring states Foreign Ministers meeting to the Ambassador and PolCouns February

13. (S) Zebari responded by saying that -- speaking as a Kurd -- there is no possibility of the creation of a separate Kurdistan, and that Kurd

14. (S) Muasher said that Zebari had underscored the desire of the Iraqi government to cooperate closely and cement good relations with Jordan,

SYRIA THE ODD MAN OUT

15. (S) In this frank and productive discussion, Muasher commented, "the Syrians stood out like a sore thumb. Even the Iranians were positive."

SYRIAN "STARK IGNORANCE"

16. (S) Sharaa's behavior in Kuwait, Muasher said, simply underscores Syria's "stark ignorance" of the U.S. and the rest of the outside world.

COMMENT

17. (S) Muasher was enthusiastic about the frank and positive tone of the Kuwait neighboring states meeting. However, he is focusing more and more

18. (U) CPA Baghdad minimize considered.

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